

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:  
a first host configured to provide for transmission of multiplexed data at a first data transfer rate;  
a second host configured to receive multiplexed data at a second data transfer rate;  
a network through which data is transferred from the first host to the second host having a third data transfer rate; and  
a data throttle, wherein the data throttle is configured to limit the first data transfer rate to a throttle value that is less than or equal to the least one of the first data transfer rate, the second data transfer rate, and the third data transfer rate, and wherein the second and third data transfer rates are obtained during a communication session start-up process from signaling, and wherein at least two of the first, second, and third data transfer rates are different from one another.
- 2-3. (Canceled).
4. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the throttle value is a predetermined value.
5. (Original) The system of Claim 1 wherein the first host is further comprised of an applications layer, a sockets layer, a transport layer, and a network layer.
6. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 5, wherein the data throttle operates by one or more application program interface (API) calls from the applications layer to the sockets layer, said API calls limiting the transmission data rate to the throttle value.

7. (Original) The system of Claim 5, wherein the transport layer is comprised of a User Datagram Protocol (UDP) and the network layer is comprised of an Internet Protocol (IP).

8-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the ~~communications~~ communication session start-up process is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) process.

13-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

obtaining a data transfer rate of a first host and a data transfer rate of a second host at which the second host may receive data;

obtaining a data transfer rate of respective one or more intervening packet processing platforms located between the first and second host, wherein the data transfer rate of the second host and the data transfer rate of the respective one or more intervening packet processing platforms are obtained during a communication session start-up process from signaling, wherein the communication session start-up process is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) process; and wherein at least two of the data transfer rate of the first host, data transfer rate of the second host, and data transfer rate of the respective one or more intervening packet processing platforms are different from one another;

setting, during a communication session start-up process, a throttle value that is less than or equal to the least of the data transfer rate of the first host, the data transfer rate of the second host, and the data transfer rate of respective one or more intervening packet processing platforms located between the first and second hosts; and

providing for transmission of data packets during a session from the first host to the second host at a data transfer rate that is less than or equal to the throttle value.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 16, wherein setting the maximum data transfer rate of the first host to the throttle value is accomplished by Application Programming Interface (API) calls from an application executing on the first host to a sockets layer of the first host.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 16, wherein providing for transmission of data packets during a session from the first host to the second host at a data transfer rate that is less than or equal to the throttle value is accomplished by use of a User Datagram Protocol (UDP) transport layer and an Internet Protocol network layer.

19. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
receiving, during a communication session start-up process, a throttle value that is less than or equal to the least of a data transfer rate of a source device, a data transfer rate of a destination device, and a data transfer rate of respective one or more intervening packet processing platforms located between the source and destination devices, wherein the data transfer rate of the destination device and the data transfer rate of the respective one or more intervening packet processing platforms are obtained during a communication session start-up process from signaling, and wherein at least two of the data transfer rate of the source device, data transfer rate of the destination device, and data transfer rate of the respective one or more intervening packet processing platforms are different from one another;  
setting the maximum data transfer rate of the source device to the throttle value; and  
providing for transmission of data packets during a session from the source device to the destination device at a data transfer rate that is less than or equal to the throttle value.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 19, wherein setting the maximum data transfer rate of the source device to the throttle value is accomplished by Application Programming Interface (API) calls from an application executing on the source device to a sockets layer of the source device.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 19, wherein providing for transmission of data packets during a session from the source device to the destination device at a data transfer rate that is less than or equal to the throttle value is accomplished by use of a User Datagram Protocol (UDP) transport layer and an Internet Protocol network layer.

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

at least one processor; and

at least one memory including computer program code, the at least one memory and the computer program code configured to, with the at least one processor, cause an apparatus to perform at least the following:

obtain a data transfer rate of a first host, a data transfer rate of a second host, and a data transfer rate of a network through which data is transferred from the first host to the second host, wherein the data transfer rate of the second host and the data transfer rate of the network through which data is transferred from the first host to the second host is obtained during a communication session start-up process from signaling; and

set a throttle value for transmission of data from the first host to the second host to a value that is less than or equal to the least of the data transfer rate of the first host, the data transfer rate of the second host, and the data transfer rate of the network, wherein the throttle value is set during a communication session start-up process, and wherein at least two of the data transfer rate of the source device, data transfer rate of the destination device, and data transfer rate of the respective one or more intervening packet processing platforms are different from one another.

23-25. (Canceled).

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 22, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are further configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus to:

set the maximum data transfer rate of the first host to the throttle value.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 26, wherein in order to set the maximum data transfer rate of the first host to the throttle value, the at least one memory and the computer program code are further configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus to:

establish one or more Application Programming Interface (API) calls from an application layer of the first host to a socket layer of the first host.

28. (Canceled).

29. (New) The method of Claim 16, wherein the communication session start-up process is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) process.

30. (New) The method of Claim 19, wherein the communication session start-up process is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) process.